

JDobbs
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1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 an uninterruptible power supply (UPS);
3 a bus control module to control distribution of power from the UPS, and
4 a bus hub unit coupled to the bus control module and having a plurality of
5 ports.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the UPS comprises:
2 an alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC) converter to receive an AC
3 power signal from an external source;
4 a battery coupled to the AC/DC converter; and
5 a DC/DC converter to convert a DC signal of the AC/DC converter into at
6 least a first predetermined DC voltage for use by a device external to the apparatus.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the UPS further comprises:
2 a charger circuit coupled between the AC/DC converter and the battery to
3 charge the battery from an incoming power signal; and
4 a power conditioning circuit coupled to the AC/DC converter to pass the
5 incoming power signal through to an output node.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the UPS further comprises:
2 a DC/AC inverter coupled to the battery; and

5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
a plurality of switches independently controlled by the bus control module to select which of a plurality of output lines are supplied power by the UPS.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bus hub is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) hub and the apparatus further comprises an internal function.
7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the function is one of a legacy port, digital subscriber line, cable modem and ethernet.
8. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the bus control module is coupled to monitor subunits of the UPS and controls the switch.
9. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
a housing containing the UPS, bus control module and the bus hub.
10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the housing further contains a plurality of expansion slots.
11. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the housing defining connection points by which an expansion module may be coupled to the housing.

12. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the hub and internal function are coupled to receive DC power from the UPS.
13. A system comprising:
 - a legacy free personal computer (PC);
 - a housing containing an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) and a bus monitor and control module; and
 - a bus coupling the PC to the bus monitor and control module.
14. The system of claim 13 wherein the bus is a Universal Serial Bus (USB).
15. The system of claim 13 wherein the bus monitor and control module distributes direct current (DC) power to the PC over the bus.

Please add the following new claims 16-38:

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JUN 24 2002

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16. A device for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
an upstream connector for connecting to a computer through a serial bus using a serial bus protocol, wherein the device is external to the computer;
at least one legacy expansion bus structure, each legacy expansion bus structure having a legacy bus protocol; and
a bus control module connected to the upstream connector and to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure, wherein the bus control module is adapted to provide a protocol conversion between the serial bus protocol and the legacy bus protocol.
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17. The device of claim 16, wherein the at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes a PCI bus structure.

18. The device of claim 16, wherein the at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes an ISA bus structure.

19. The device of claim 16, wherein the at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes an EISA bus structure.

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20. The device of claim 16, wherein the at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes a PCMCIA bus structure
21. The device of claim 16, further comprising at least one expansion slot connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
22. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one expansion card for coupling with the at least one expansion slot, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one serial port.
23. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one expansion card for coupling with the at least one expansion slot, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one parallel port.
24. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one modem connector connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
25. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one network connector connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
26. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one DSL port connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
27. The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one cable modem port connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
28. The device of claim 16, wherein the serial bus includes a Universal Serial Bus (USB).
29. The device of claim 16, further comprising an uninterruptible power supply (UPS)

coupled to and controlled and monitored by the control module.

30. The device of claim 29, wherein the bus control module controls a plurality of switches to control power from the UPS to a plurality of external devices.

31. A device for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
an upstream connector for connecting to a computer through a Universal Serial Bus (USB) using a USB protocol, wherein the device is external to the computer;
a PCI bus structure having a PCI bus protocol; and
a bus control module connected to the upstream connector and to the PCI bus structure, wherein the bus control module is adapted to provide a protocol conversion between the USB protocol and the PCI bus protocol.

32. A method for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure in a device external to a computer, wherein each legacy expansion bus structure has a legacy bus protocol;
communicating between the device and the computer using a serial communication protocol; and
providing a protocol conversion between the serial communication protocol and the legacy bus protocol for each of the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing a PCI bus structure.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing an ISA bus structure.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing an EISA bus structure.

36. The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing a PCMCIA bus structure

37. The method of claim 32, wherein communicating between the device and the computer using a serial communication protocol includes communicating between the device and the computer using a USB protocol.

**38. A method for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
providing a PCI bus structure in a device external to a computer, wherein the PCI bus structure has a PCI bus protocol;
communicating between the device and the computer using a USB protocol; and
providing a protocol conversion between the USB protocol and the PCI bus protocol.**